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brates. This is itself a sufficient guarantee of the scientific accuracy and value of the work. The analytical tables are brief and concise, yet not more technical in language than is absolutely necessary and can be readily understood and followed by the average student. But the book is no mere analytical key to the animal kingdom. The anatomical character of each type, class and order are briefly but clearly presented. It is a hand-book which every teacher will find useful in his class-room and laboratory and which is worthy of a place by the side of Claus or Carus and Gerstæcher in every zoölogical library. The style is clear enough, so that the book could easily be translated by any one tolerably familiar with German. The cuts are clear, good and well selected. The type is rather small and the paper thin, but if large type and thick paper had been used, we should have four or five volumes to contain what is now by a marvel of compression crowded into two. Even more marvelous than the condensation is the price, only thirty marks for the two volumes.—*J. M. Tyler.*

BEDDOE'S RACES OF BRITAIN.¹—This work gives the fruits of a continued examination of the complexions of large numbers of the natives of Britain, with a view to ascertain the proportion in which the various races, aboriginal and immigrant, are represented in the present population. The volume is to a great extent an expansion of a manuscript essay which in 1868 carried off the great prize of the Welsh National Eisteddfod, and is the outcome of a great part of the leisure of fifteen years. The method adopted was to take notes of the colors of the hair and eyes of persons met or passed at a sufficiently small distance to permit of observation. Those under age, those whose hair had begun to grizzle, and those who seemed to belong to the upper or migratory classes were neglected. Eyes are distinguished as light, neutral and dark; hair as red, fair, brown, dark and black; and an index of nigrescence is adopted, forming a basis on which the results of the observations are mapped so as to speak to the eye. A considerable number of head-measurements were also made.

The book is a mine of information, bristling with statistics, facts and arguments, but unfortunately is scarcely comprehensible save by those who know nearly as much of the history and philology of the ancient races as does the author.

ZITTEL'S HANDBUCH DER PALÆONTOLOGIE.—We have from time to time drawn attention to this valuable work, which is being published in parts. It covers the plant and animal kingdoms, and is the most authoritative and recent work on the subject. Due credit is given to American work and illustrations. The number last received (Bd. i, Abth. ii, Lief. 4) is devoted to the fossil Crustacea,

¹ *The Races of Britain.* A contribution to the anthropology of Western Europe. By JOHN BEDDOE, M.D., F.R.S. London, Trubner & Co., Ludgate Hill, 1885.

including the trilobites and Merostomata. The illustrations are abundant and in most every case well engraved. The pages given to the Merostomata, the Phyllocarida and the lower Macrura are full and fresh in treatment. Each order is defined; a brief general account of the external anatomy follows, with remarks on the opinions of different authors as to their classification. The families and genera are defined, the leading types are figured, and then follow tables showing the geological distribution of the species. The author is usually critical in his mode of treatment, as seen in his doubtful recognition of Brachypyge as a Carboniferous crab, which, since the publication of this part, has been shown to be a pedipalp arachnidan. We do not see why, even in the light of Meek and Worthen's excellent treatment, Anthrapalæmon should be placed in the Penæidæ. Still the author's thoroughness and command of the literature is evident throughout the work.

FAXON'S REVISION OF THE CRAWFISH.¹—This is a systematic treatise on the crawfish of the Northern hemisphere, based chiefly on the material in the museum at Cambridge, which now possesses all the known species from Europe and Asia, and all the American species, with three exceptions. The richness of the material may be realized by the fact that twenty new species of *Cambarus* are described, whereas Dr. Hagen, in his well-known memoir on the North American crawfish, described but ten unknown to previous authors.

The treatment of the material by the author, as may have been expected, is thorough, and the illustrations, drawn by Mr. Paul Roetter, are excellent. It is a matter of great interest to be able to study such a group as this, scattered as it is through the northern portions of the New and Old World. It is to be hoped that our naturalists will endeavor hereafter, in making out our American fauna, to compare it with that of Europe and particularly Eastern Asia.

GRABER'S ANIMAL MECHANICS.—This forms a double volume in a German series, entitled, *Das Wissen der Gegenwart*, devoted to popular knowledge relating to science, history and literature; each volume costing but a single mark or twenty-five cents.

The present volume is devoted to the mechanics of the external organs of vertebrates and invertebrates. The author is well known as an authority on the mechanics of motion, etc., of the Arthropoda and has given us what we have found to be a most useful and interesting volume, quite out of the ordinary line of works on natural history. It is abundantly illustrated with novel and graphic sketches, usually well drawn. The topics treated under Vertebrates are the mechanics of the

¹ *Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy*, x, No. 4. A revision of the Asticidæ. By WALTER FAXON. Part I. The genera *Cambarus* and *Astacus*. With ten plates. Cambridge, August, 1885. 4to, pp. 186.